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[PRESS KIT \(Photos available Jan.22\)](#)

NCTC FAMILY MATINEE *LIONS IN ILLYRIA* TO TAKE PLACE IN NEWLY NAMED TUCKER THEATRE

San Francisco, CA (January 7, 2020) — This February, New Conservatory Theatre Center's **Family Matinee Series** presents a wild twist on a classic Shakespearean tale with *Lions in Illyria*, written by **Robert Kauzlaric** and directed by **NCTC Conservatory Director Stephanie Temple**. This will be the first production to take place in the newly named Tucker Theatre.

Tucker Theatre, formerly known as Theatre 3, is newly named after longtime NCTC donor and friend Ted Tucker in honor of Tucker's commitment to nurturing the growth of our theatre community. An NCTC playing space for both Youth Conservatory and YouthAware Educational Theatre, as well as the New Voices/New Work program, Tucker Theatre will act as an incubator for the education of young artists and programming of new work.

The inaugural production in Tucker Theatre, *Lions in Illyria*, is a Family Matinee which features a feral twist on the Bard. Giraffes are gentlemen, aardvarks are card sharks, and animals rule the world in this retelling of Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*. When young lioness Violet is separated from her twin brother by a storm at sea, she must find her way alone in an unknown country. Disguised as a boy, she finds work helping a preposterous peacock win the love of the most graceful gazelle in town, but it's not long before Violet is torn between multiple masters and the whole menagerie is tangled in matters of the heart. Travel to the weird and wonderful land of Illyria in this magical, clever comedy.

Lions in Illyria plays **Saturdays & Sundays at 2pm & 4pm, February 8-16, 2020** in NCTC's Tucker Theatre.

Tickets are \$10 for students, \$15 for adults, and are available at nctcsf.org or by calling **(415) 861-8972**.

Director Stephanie Temple has been directing teens at NCTC since 2002 and teaching young people for almost twenty years. She specializes in devised theatre and enjoys working collaboratively with her students. Temple has a Bachelor of Arts from University of Southern California's School of Theatre and is currently finishing her Master's in Drama at San Francisco State University. She has taught acting, improvisation, dance and musical theatre at NCTC, CSU Stanislaus, Merced College, PCPA Theatrefest and currently runs the drama program at Live Oak School in Potrero Hill. As NCTC's Children's Playwright in Residence, Temple has adapted and developed plays such as *Snow Queen*, *Anansi, an African Folktale*, *Goldi Locks and the Three Aliens*, *Bollywood Sleeping Beauty*, *MUNI*, *The Little Mermaid*, *Snow White*, *The Odyssey*, *Peter Pan*, and *Rock 'n Roll Cinderella*.

New Conservatory Theatre Center Family Matinee Series has presented original adaptations and classic stories for youth and families since 1981. After a hiatus, the Series resumed in 2004 under the leadership of Conservatory Director Stephanie Temple, who has written and directed over two dozen original adaptations, often working in collaboration with her teen ensemble members. The Family Matinee Series has the distinction of employing **teenage performers** and stage managers, many of whom have trained in **NCTC's Conservatory Program**, often providing them their first professional theatre jobs.

New Conservatory Theatre Center is San Francisco's premiere LGBTQ+ performing arts institution and progressive arts education conservatory since 1981. NCTC is renowned for its diverse range of **innovative, high quality productions**, touring productions and shows for young audiences; its foundational **anti-bullying** work with youth and educators through **YouthAware**; and its commitment to nurturing **emerging artists** and playwrights to expand the canon of queer and allied dramatic work.

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Lions in Illyria

FACT SHEET

WHO:

Written by Robert Kauzlaric

Directed by Stephanie Temple

WHAT: *Lions in Illyria*

WHERE: New Conservatory Theatre Center

Tucker Theatre, 25 Van Ness Ave @Market, San Francisco, CA 94102

WHEN: February 8 - 16, 2020

Saturdays & Sundays, 2pm & 4pm

COST: \$10 students, \$15 adults

TICKETS AND BOX OFFICE: [415-861-8972](tel:415-861-8972), boxoffice@nctcsf.org

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